



Way Finding: Prehistory to Present



Orienteering Merit Badge

Outline

Theme: Way finding has been a useful tool for prehistoric southeastern tribes and present day people for survival and finding their way to new and mysterious lands.

Goals: (1) Scouts will learn how the prehistoric cultures traveled from the land bridge to the southeast region. (2) Scouts will learn how Spanish Explorers, such as Hernando De Soto, sailed across the ocean and traveled throughout the southeast region. (3) Although most people use GPS systems today, scouts will learn that some people still use a compass or the prehistoric way. (4) Scouts will learn to read a compass and map. (5) Scouts will take what they have learned during the program and apply it to an orienteering course.

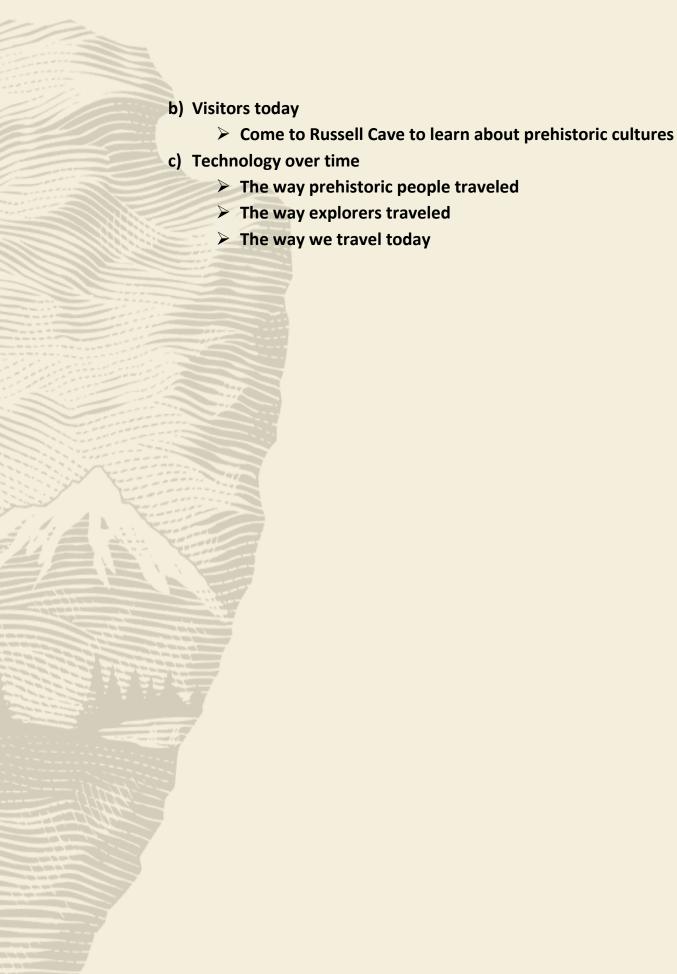
Objectives: To leave scouts with the understanding and knowledge of how way finding has changed over time.

Introduction:

- I. Prehistoric Cultures
 - a) Land bridge into America
 - ➤ Did they find the land bridge by accident (e.g. Tracking animals)
 - Was the land bridge purposely found
 - b) Southeast Region
 - Were they following a water source or sources (e.g. Tennessee)

- Were they tracking animals or following food (e.g. Mastodon, deer, bear)
- Were they following the sun (e.g. to cold up north, warmer in the south, climate change)
- c) Russell Cave
 - > Did they find the cave by accident (e.g. tracking animals)
 - Were they following a water source or sources
 - Did they follow the trees (e.g. moss grows on north side of tree)
- II. Spanish Explorers
 - > Hernando De Soto
 - ➤ De Soto led first expedition in the Old South

 How did he get from Spain to the New World?
 - Compass and night skyHelped explorers sail across the ocean
- Why did he come to the New World? (Gold, Silver, Spices, and Souls) Routes for particular Trade Goods (e.g. water sources) No cars, no roads, etc How did they get the goods back to Spain?
- III. Present Day Technology
 - a) How has way finding changed?
 - Compass
 Helps Cavers (Map caves)
 Helps Hikers (Direction)
 Helps Mountain Bikers (Direction)
 - GPS
 Hand held GPS (Helps to map trails and set boundaries)
 - b) How has way finding not changed?
 - > Maps
 - > Night skies (e.g. position of stars have changed slightly)
 - Compass (magnetic north vs. true north)
- IV. Conclusion
 - a) Prehistoric Cultures



Works Citied:

Boy Scouts of America. Orienteering. Revised Edition. Irving: Texas, 1995.

Duncan, David Ewing. <u>Hernando De Soto A Savage Quest in the Americas</u>. New York: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996.

Waldman, Carl. <u>Atlas of the North American Indian</u>. Revised Edition. New York: Checkmark Books, 2002.